

**BEFORE THE OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND ETHICS
FRANK D. REEVES MUNICIPAL BUILDING
2000-14th STREET, N.W., SUITE 420
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20009
(202) 671-0550**

IN THE MATTER OF)	DATE: January 11, 2005
)	
Anthony Bethea)	DOCKET NO.: 04F-011
Supervisory Public Health Analyst)	
Department of Health)	
5734 April Journey)	
Columbia, Maryland 21044)	

ORDER

Statement of the Case

This matter came before the Office of Campaign Finance (hereinafter OCF) Office of the General Counsel following a determination by its Public Information Records Management Division, that pursuant to D.C. Official Code §1-1106.02 (2001 Edition), Anthony Bethea, Supervisory Public Health Analyst, Department of Health, failed to timely file, a Financial Disclosure Statement for calendar year 2003, on or before May 15, 2004, as required by D.C. Official Code §1-1106.02, and also failed to file on or before the OCF sanctioned extended filing deadline of June 21, 2004.

By Notice of Hearing, Statement of Violations and Order of Appearance dated August 17, 2004, OCF ordered Anthony Bethea (hereinafter respondent), to appear at a scheduled hearing on August 25, 2004, and show cause why he should not be found in violation of the D.C. Campaign Finance Reform and Conflict of Interest Act of 1974, as amended by D.C. Official Code §§1-1101.01 et seq., and fined accordingly.

Summary of Evidence

OCF alleges that the respondent failed to timely file the statutorily required Financial Disclosure Statement (FDS) for calendar year 2003, on or before June 21, 2004. On August 25, 2004, respondent appeared at the scheduled hearing and testified that he received information from OCF concerning the requirement to file. However, respondent stated he was distracted by the changes and movements at DOH, including its leadership, which impacted his job. Respondent further stated that the difficulty in locating a notary public exasperated the filing process. Respondent presented and filed a Financial Disclosure Statement, initially completed on or around May 14, 2004, at the conclusion of the hearing.

Findings of Fact

Having reviewed the allegations and the record herein, I find:

1. Respondent is a member of the Management Supervisory Service; and paid at the rate of MS-13 or above.
2. Respondent timely filed a Financial Disclosure Statement in 2003 for calendar year 2002.
3. Respondent was required to file a Financial Disclosure Statement with OCF for calendar year 2003, on or before June 21, 2004.
4. Respondent filed the required Financial Disclosure Statement for calendar year 2003 on August 25, 2004.
5. Respondent has no history of prior filing delinquencies.
6. Respondent is currently in compliance with the statute.

Conclusions of Law

Based upon the record provided by OCF, I therefore conclude:

1. Respondent violated D.C. Official Code §1-1106.02.
2. The penalty established at D.C. Official Code §1-1103.05(b)(3), and 3DCMR §§3711.2(aa), 3711.2 and 3711.4 for failure to timely file a Financial Disclosure Statement required by D.C. Official Code §1-1106.02, is a fine of \$50.00 per day for each business day subsequent to the due date.
3. In accordance with D.C. Official Code §1-1103.05(b)(3), the respondent may be fined a maximum of \$2,000.00 for failing to timely file a Financial Disclosure Statement.
4. For good cause shown pursuant to 3DCMR §3711.6, the Director of Campaign Finance (Director) may modify, rescind, dismiss or suspend any fine.
5. Respondent's explanation for failing to timely file was insufficient to sustain a finding of good cause; however, his previous record of timely filings with OCF constitutes good cause for suspension of the fine.

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Recommendation

In view of the foregoing and information included in the record, I hereby recommend that the Director suspend the imposition of the fine in this matter.

Date

Jean Scott Diggs
Hearing Officer

Concurrence

In view of the foregoing, I hereby concur with the Recommendation.

Date

Kathy S. Williams
General Counsel

ORDER OF THE DIRECTOR

IT IS ORDERED that the fine in this matter be hereby suspended.

Date

Cecily E. Collier-Montgomery
Director

SERVICE OF ORDER

This is to certify that I have served a true copy of the foregoing Order, by regular mail, on respondent on January 11, 2005.

NOTICE

Pursuant to 3DCMR §3711.5, any fine imposed by the Director shall become effective on the 16th day following the issuance of a decision and order, if the respondent does not request an appeal of this matter. If applicable, within 10 days of the effective date of this order, please make a check or money order payable to the D.C. Treasurer, c/o Office of Campaign Finance, Suite 420, 2000-14th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.